

BUTTERFLIES IN CENTRAL SPAIN IN MAY 1982,
INCLUDING A RECORD OF
NORTHWARD MIGRATION

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(Concluded from Vol. 95 page 246)

Ilex Hairstreak: *Nordmannia ilicis* Esper. Sierra de Gredos: locally common around Cork and Holly Oaks in the neighbourhood of Corchuela, Navalcan and Las Ventas de San Julian, 17-22.v.

False Ilex Hairstreak: *N. esculi* Hübner. Sierra de Gredos: apparently common in the same localities and on the same dates as the last species. A male and a female collected by D.F.O. were of this species, which is stated by Higgins and Riley (1980) to fly in June and July.

Green Hairstreak: *Callophrys rubi* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: frequent in Pyrenean Oakwood, Miraflores, 11-14.v.

Small Copper: *Lycaena phlaeas* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: a few in open places around Miraflores, 11-14.v., and on the mountain slopes above Rascafria, 15.v. Sierra de Gredos: common along the Canal de Rosarita, near Madrigal de la Vera and a few elsewhere in the foothills and below the Puerto del Pico, 17-23.v.

Also recorded in the last-named locality and many other places in the Sierras de Gredos and Guadarrama by Eitschberger and Steiniger (1973b) in August, 1972.

Sooty Copper: *Heodes tityrus* Poda. Santander to Burgos road: one by the roadside on the Puerto de Carrales (1,020 m.), 10.v.

Long-tailed Blue: *Lampides boeticus* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: Guadalix: one, 11.v.; several seen in the neighbourhood of Miraflores, 11-14.v. Sierra de Gredos: frequent in the foothills between Arenas de San Pedro and Madrigal de la Vera, 16-22.v., and below and on the Puerto del Pico, where some appeared to be migrating north through the pass on 23.v. with *Colias crocea* and other Pierids.

Recorded in August, 1972 in the Sierra de Guadarrama (San Rafael) and in the Sierra de Gredos (Hoyos del Espino, Rio Tormes and Barajas) by Eitschberger and Steiniger (1973b).

Holly Blue: *Celastrina argiolus* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: common in the Pyrenean Oak woods near Miraflores, 11-14.v. and in the pinewoods below the Puerto de Canencia (1,600 m.), 13.v.; one on the mountain slopes above Rascafria, 15.v. Sierra de Gredos: a few seen in the foothills between Madrigal de la Vera (Canal de Rosarita, etc.) and Arenas de San Pedro, 17-22.v.

Panoptes Blue: *Pseudophilotes panoptes* Hübner. (Treated by some authors as a subspecies of *P. baton*). Sierra de Gredos: D.F.O.

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caught a female which was subsequently identified as this species, but does not recall the precise date or locality. However, he believes he took it on the southern slopes of the Puerto del Pico, north of Cuevas del Valle on 23.v.

False Baton Blue: *P. abencerragus* Pierret. Sierra de Guadarrama: a female collected by D.F.O. from heathy ground amongst rocky outcrops at ca.1,300 m. on the northern outskirts of Miraflores de la Sierra on 14.v. Higgins and Riley (1980) give 1,200 m. as the upper limit of the altitudes frequented by this species in Spain, and state that it is "widely distributed but very local from Aranjuez southwards". Miraflores is about 85 km. north of Aranjuez.

Spanish Brown Argus: *Aricia agestis cramera* Eschscholtz. Sierra de Guadarrama: several near Miraflores and Guadalix, 11-14.v. Sierra de Gredos: occasionally seen in the foothills, 17-22.v. and at Oropesa on 18.v.

Mazarine Blue: *Cyaniris semiargus* Rott. Sierra de Gredos: many seen north of Cuevas del Valle on the southern slopes below the Puerto del Pico pass on 23.v., where a female was watched laying eggs singly on Spanish White Broom *Cytisus multiflorus*. D.F.O. collected one female. This species is described by Manley and Allcard (1970) as having only a scattered distribution in Spain, and Higgins and Riley (1980) say that it is "often rare in Spain and Portugal".

Common Blue: *Polyommatus icarus* Rott. Sierra de Gredos: one female collected by D.F.O. near Madrigal de la Vera. We presume the species is at least not uncommon here.

Large Tortoiseshell: *Nymphalis polychloros* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: large brood of 50+ 3rd instar larvae on a young Elm *Ulmus* sp. beside stream between Guadalix and Miraflores de la Sierra, 11.v., from which D.F.O. collected some and reared 12 imagines. One adult seen in Pyrenean Oakwood, 12.v.; one adult near Arenas de San Pedro, 16.v. De Freina (1975) recorded this species in the Sierra de Guadarrama in late June, 1973 at El Escorial and Eitschberger and Steiniger (1973b) saw one imago at Cercedilla in August, 1972.

Peacock: *Inachis io* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: young larvae were numerous on nettles near a stream between Miraflores and Guadalix, 11.v.

Red Admiral: *Vanessa atalanta* L. Santander to Burgos road: a few at Pesquera de Ebro, 10.v. Sierra de Guadarrama: a few in Pyrenean Oakwood near Miraflores, 11-14.v. Sierra de Gredos: a few along the road between Cuevas del Valle and Puerto del Pico, over the pass of which a few participated in the northward migration on 23.v. described in detail earlier. Several noted in the foothills between Arenas de San Pedro and Madrigal de la Vera.

Painted Lady: *Cynthia cardui* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: one in Miraflores town, 12.v. Sierra de Gredos: one or two noted 23.v. along the road between Cuevas del Valle and Puerto del Pico, over

the pass of which a very few participated in the northward migration described earlier. Also seen occasionally between 17-22.v. in the foothills between Arenas de San Pedro and Madrigal de la Vera.

Small Tortoiseshell: *Aglais urticae* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: full grown larvae numerous on nettles between Miraflores and Guadalix, 11.v., one adult and batches of small larvae on nettles on mountain roadside above Rascafria, 15.v.

Comma: *Polygonia c-album* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: several near Miraflores, 11-14.v. Sierra de Gredos: 4 or 5, all *hutchinsoni*, beside the Canal de Rosarita, near Madrigal de la Vera, 18-21.v.; also one at Oropesa, 18.v. and several near Corchuela. It is interesting to note that Manley and Allcard (1970) give July as the time of appearance of *hutchinsoni* on the wing, while Higgins and Riley (1980) give June.

Queen of Spain Fritillary: *Issoria lathonia* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: several in a large, rather boggy clearing interspersed with thickets of Broom *Cytisus* sp. and Gum-cistus *Cistus ladanifer* in the pinewoods north of the Puerto de Canencia (1,600 m.) on 13.v.; common on mountain slopes above Rascafria, 15.v.

Also recorded from the Guadarrama (El Escorial, San Rafael, Cercedilla and El Ventorillo) by Eitschberger and Steiniger (1973b) and de Freina (1975).

Glanville Fritillary: *Melitaea cinxia* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: several fresh adults of a large and bright form in the Pyrenean Oakwood near Miraflores, 11-14.v.; D.F.O. collected two specimens.

Marsh Fritillary: *Euphydryas aurinia* Rott. Sierra de Guadarrama: a few by stream in Pyrenean Oakwood near Miraflores, 11-14.v., and two collected by D.F.O.; one by boggy stream between Guadalix and Miraflores, 11.v. Recorded also in the Guadarrama (El Escorial) by de Freina (1975) in late June, 1973.

Rock Grayling: *Hipparchia alycyone* Denis & Schiffermüller. Sierra de Guadarrama: one freshly emerged imago in Pyrenean Oakwood near Miraflores, 13.v. — an apparently early date as Manley and Allcard (1970) write that "in some localities it appears as early as the end of May". This species was also noted in the Guadarrama at El Escorial by de Freina (1975).

Piedmont Ringlet: *Erebia meolans bejarensis* Chapman. Sierra de Guadarrama: several freshly emerged imagines of this large, bright race, well known as an inhabitant of this mountain range, were seen and three males collected between 11th and 14th May, apparently at least a fortnight earlier than usual as Manley and Allcard (1970) say that it appears at the beginning of June "at lower levels", while Higgins and Riley (1980) give the end of June. These were flying at about 1,300 m. A few *Erebia* butterflies, probably of this species, were also seen, but not caught, on 15th May on the mountain slopes above Rascafria.

Meadow Brown: *Maniola jurtina hispulla* Esper. Sierra de Guadarrama: several in open grassy places among the woods near Miraflores, 11-14.v. Sierra de Gredos: common in hayfields and on roadside verges in the foothills between Arenas de San Pedro and Madrigal de la Vera, and on the banks of the Canal de Rosarita, 17-22.v.

Spanish Gatekeeper: *Pyronia bathseba pardilloi* Sagarra. Sierra de Gredos: locally common in the southern foothills between Arenas de San Pedro and Madrigal de la Vera (e.g., around Poyales del Hoyo and along the banks of the Canal de Rosarita). 16-22.v.

Small Heath: *Coenonympha pamphilus* L. Sierra de Guadarrama frequent in the Pyrenean Oakwood near Miraflores, 11-14.v.; several between Miraflores and Guadalix, 11.v. Sierra de Gredos: locally plentiful in the foothills between Arenas de San Pedro and Madrigal de la Vera, 17-22.v.

Speckled Wood: *Pararge a. aegeria* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: a few in the Pyrenean Oakwood near Miraflores, 11-14.v., and in the pinewoods on the Miraflores to Puerto de Canencia road, 13.v. Sierra de Gredos: a few in wood beside the Poyales de Hoyo to Candeleda road, 16.v., and along the Canal de Rosarita, near Madrigal de la Vera, 16.v. and 21.v.

Wall Brown: *Lasiommata megera* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: numerous in the Pyrenean Oakwood near Miraflores, 11-14.v.; several along Miraflores to Guadalix road, 11.v. Sierra de Gredos: common in the foothills between Arenas de San Pedro and Madrigal de la Vera and the plain to the south; also on the road from Cuevas del Valle to the Puerto del Pico, 17-23.v.

Large Wall Brown: *L. maera* L. Sierra de Guadarrama: one collected by D.F.O. in the Pyrenean Oakwood near Miraflores, 11.v., and another seen on the Miraflores-Guadalix road on the same date.

Grizzled Skipper: *Pyrgus malvae malvoides* Elwes and Edwards. We encountered this southern race of *malvae* only once — on a grassy expanse beside the Miraflores-Puerto de Canencia road in the Sierra de Guadarrama. Here several were on the wing on 13.v.

Mallow Skipper: *Carcharodus alceae* Esper. Sierra de Gredos: fairly common on the flowery banks of the Canal de Rosarita, near Madrigal de la Vera, and in adjacent meadows, 21.v., and also near Arenas de San Pedro on 16.v. One collected from each locality by D.F.O.

Small Skipper: *Thymelicus flavus* Brünnich. Sierra de Gredos: fairly common by roadsides and on canal banks between Madrigal de la Vera and Arenas de San Pedro, 16-22.v.

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A SELDOM-NOTICED HABIT OF NEOCNEMODON VITRIPENNIS MG. (DIPT.: SYRPHIDAE). — I have repeatedly found single females of this hover-fly, the only British *Neocnemodon* that is fairly common, on and about the trunks of poplars — both Lombardy and Black Italian — in the S. London suburbs, frequently enough to rule out mere chance. The association has, I think, received but little notice in the literature. In fact, the sole reference I have seen to anything of the sort is a Continental observation cited by Coe (1953, *Handb. Ident. Brit. Ins.*, 10(1): 59): "The larvae of *C. vitripennis* were found sucking Coccids on *Populus italica* by Heeger. . .". This seems to afford a satisfactory explanation of the above-mentioned habit of adult females in Britain; they would appear to frequent the trees for oviposition, attracted by the presence of certain scale-insects presumably attached to poplars and living on the trunks. So far, however, I have not been able to confirm this hypothesis, or even to find males accompanying such females, but it remains extremely probable. Of course, odd females of *vitripennis* occur away from poplars, like the males, on flowers or among foliage in gardens etc.; but, in my experience, they are fewer and more sporadic. — A. A. ALLEN.